

[7th March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) Does not arise.

Effective utilisation of budgetary allocation to NGOs

1093. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the methodology evolved by Government to see that the budgetary allocation to voluntary organizations is utilized effectively for the benefit of the handicapped;

(b) whether Government are convinced that the benefits are reaching to handicapped; and

(c) if not, the measures Government propose to take against the erring organizations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The Ministry grants financial assistance to non-governmental organizations under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary action for Persons with Disability and the Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Person for purchase/fitting of Aids and Appliances. The broad criterion laid down in these schemes are with reference to eligibility, extent of assistance, procedure for submission of application and documents such as budget estimates, details of beneficiaries etc. The organizations seeking continuance of assistance under the Schemes are required to furnish the audited accounts of the grants received during the earlier year, annual report on the activities and also the audited utilization certificate in the prescribed format to the effect that the funds released during the earlier years have been utilized for the purpose for which these have been released. Besides the Ministry also takes into account the inspection reports obtained through the agencies of State government, designated nodal agencies and officers of the Ministry with a view to verifying that the benefits reach the targeted groups.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir, to a large extent. The Ministry has powers under the Scheme to stop the grants in respect of the erring organizations, if any, and also initiate penal action recover proceedings.